

The Director



Washington, D.C. 20505

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78-6610

OLC 78-3107/A

30 OCT 1978

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Mr. James M. Frey  
Assistant Director for  
Legislative Reference  
Office of Management and Budget  
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Frey:

This is in response to your request for views on enrolled bill S. 2450, a bill which, in addition to extending the assistance programs for community mental health centers (Title I) and for biomedical research (Title II), would establish in Title III a "President's Commission for the Study of Ethical Problems in Medicine and Biomedical and Behavioral Research." Since Titles I and II of the legislation address issues not germane to the mission of this Agency, we defer to the views of those agencies directly affected. We would, however, like to comment on Title III of the enrolled bill.

Title III would establish a Presidential Commission to guarantee that the rights of human subjects of biomedical and behavioral research are protected. Current CIA guidelines require that human subject research be conducted in strict accordance with Department of Health, Education and Welfare regulations and applicable statutes and that each entity conducting research hold an approved assurance from HEW. Thus, existing Agency policy is in accord with the aims and intent of the legislation. I am confident that the informational needs of the Commission can be satisfied consistent with my responsibility to protect intelligence sources and methods. I also note that positive recognition is accorded the need to protect classified information from disclosure, both in the statute and its legislative history.

After review of Title III of the enrolled bill, we find nothing therein which would warrant a negative recommendation to the President; I am, therefore, pleased to have the opportunity to endorse positive Presidential action on the bill. We appreciate the opportunity to conduct a final review of the legislation.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ Stansfield Turner

STANSFIELD TURNER

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